

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY LISBON
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AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
USEC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 3452

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SP
SUBJECT: PSOE TO HOST SOUTHERN EUROPEAN SOCIALIST CONFERENCE;
STILL UNDECIDED ON ATTENDING MALTA MEDITERRANEAN SOCIALIST
MEETING

REF: VALLETTA 450

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1. THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL (SI)- MEMBER SPANISH SOCIALIST
WORKERS PARTY (PSOE) WILL HOST A "CONFERENCE OF SOCIALIST
PARTIES OF SOUTHERN EUROPE" ON MAY 7-8. THE MEETING, WHICH
IS FUNDAMENTALLY AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN RESOURCE FOR THE PSOE,
IS A FOLLOW-ON TO THE FIRST SUCH ASSEMBLY, WHICH WAS HOSTED
BY THE PSF IN PARIS IN JANUARY 1976.

2. TOP BILLING AT THE CONFERENCE GOES TO "CO-ORGANIZERS" PSF, PSI, PSP, AND PSB, WHO WILL BE REPRESENTED, RESPECTIVELY, BY MITTERAND, CRAXI, SOARES, AND COOLS/CLAES. OTHER MEMBER PARTIES OF THE SI, THE GREEK PASOK, THE YUGOSLAV SOCIALIST ALLIANCE AND EXILED CHILEAN SOCIALISTS ARE AMONG THE INVITED GUESTS. CENTRAL THEMES OF THE CONFERENCE WILL BE: COOPERATION, PEACE AND SECURITY IN EUROPE AFTER HELSINKI AND BEFORE BELGRADE; DEMOCRACY AND SOCIALISM IN SOUTHERN EUROPE; COOPERATION BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE THIRD WORLD FROM A SOCIALIST PERSPECTIVE; THE SOUTHERN EUROPEAN SOCIALIST PARTIES AND THE MEDITERRANEAN; AND PERSPECTIVES ON THE INTEGRATION OF PORTUGAL, GREECE AND SPAIN INTO THE EC.

3. AFTER DEALING WITH THESE WEIGHTY ISSUES ALL DAY SATURDAY, THE PSOE THEN WILL GET DOWN TO CASES SATURDAY NIGHT WHEN IT WILL HOST A "PEOPLES' POLITICAL FIESTA" ORGANIZED AROUND THE PRESENCE OF THE VISITING SOCIALIST LEADERS AT A MADRID SOCCER STADIUM. PARTY LEADERS HOPE THE TURNOUT WILL EXCEED 100,000. THE CONFERENCE ITSELF WILL THEN CONCLUDE ON SUNDAY.

4. PSOE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY LUIS YANEZ TOLD EMBOFF MAY 3 THAT THE PARTY LEADERSHIP STILL HAD NOT DECIDED WHETHER TO ATTEND THE MALTA MEDITERRANEAN SOCIALIST MEETING IN JUNE (REFTEL). THE DECISION WOULD BE MADE, HE SAID, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH OTHER PARTY LEADERS (PARTICULARLY PSF, PSI, AND PSP) AT THE WEEKEND CONFERENCE. ESPECIALLY BECAUSE OF THE INVOLVEMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN MEETING OF TIerno GALVAN'S SMALL POPULAR SOCIALIST PARTY, THE PSOE'S ADVERSARY, PARTY LEADERS WOULD CERTAINLY PREFER TO JOIN THE PORTU-
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GUESE SOCIALISTS (LISBON 3370) IN IGNORING THE MALTA MEETING ALTOGETHER. BUT THE PRESENCE OF THE PSF (PARIS 11699) AND POSSIBLY OTHERS AS OBSERVERS MIGHT COMPEL THE PSOE TO PUT IN SOME SORT OF RELUCTANT APPEARANCE. WE NOTE ALSO THAT THE CERTAIN ANTI-ISRAEL THRUST OF THE MALTA MEETING WILL RUN COMPLETELY COUNTER TO THE CONSISTENT PUBLIC POSITION OF THE PSOE, WHICH MAINTAINS GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE ISRAELI LABOR PARTY, SUPPORTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH ISRAEL, AND IS QUITE CRITICAL OF THE GOS'S REFUSAL TO DO SO. THE PSP, IN CONTRAST, IS QUITE BALDLY ANTI-ISRAEL.

5. FOR THE RECORD, CONCERNING MATEUS' REMARKS ABOUT TIerno GALVAN'S LIBYAN TIE (LISBON 3370), IT IS WIDELY ACCEPTED HERE THAT THE POPULAR SOCIALISTS ARE ON THE LIBYAN DOLE. WHILE PARTY LEADERS HAVE VOLUNTEERED DENIALS, THEY HAVE IMPLIED PRIVATELY THAT LIBYA HELPED FINANCE THE FIRST MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE IN BARCELONA, AND WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT THAT THE LIBYANS ARE INDEED AIDING THE PARTY. STABLER

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